

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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JULY 14, 2016

News Review Open House A Crowd Pleasing Success

by Cathie Meetre

The News Review Open House was a new venture for the paper. Although it regularly welcomes visitors, it has never before in all its years held a planned open house like Sunday's. Perhaps it is merely 79 years of pent-up curiosity, but over 120 Greenbelters picked up their press passes and joined the paper's staff to experience how the paper comes together and to learn about its resources.

The phrase "I had no idea" was heard frequently as attendees realized the rich treasure that is the News Review. With a complete archive of the paper from 1937 and artifacts gathered over the years, it is a repository of Greenbelt's social and political life since the town's inception. Arguably it is also a microcosm of American history during the same time period. Reflected in its pages are a small town and domestic perspective on the Depression, the war years and the economic and social impacts of the second half of the 20th century and now the beginnings of the 21st.



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Rowan Kelly, 7, of Greenbelt, works on her front page of the News Review using pre-cut photos and articles.

Listeners were rapt hearing Editor Mary Lou Williamson recount how and why the paper changed its name from the Cooperator to the Greenbelt News Review in 1954. For some months the paper's masthead was blank

See **OPEN HOUSE**, page 7

Zoning Rewrite and More Discussed by City and GHI

by Kathleen Gallagher

The first part of the annual city Greenbelt Homes Inc., (GHI) stakeholder meeting on June 13 covered discussion of GHI concerns over new county legislation affecting "common ownership communities," and was reported last week. Other topics at the meeting and covered in this article include the county zoning rewrite, Pepco's tree management program for this year, an update on playground resurfacing, GHI business trends, progress on the Homes Improvement Program and a grant proposal for a task force on hoarding.

County Zoning Rewrite

The Prince George's County Planning Department is in the midst of a complete revision of the county's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. Referred to as the "Zoning Rewrite," the plans are being rolled out as the different modules are developed and drafted. Two briefings have been provided at city council worksessions on the overall plan and Module 1 (Zones and Use Regulations), which has been completed in draft but is not yet finalized. Module 2 has recently been released. A number of community presentations have also been held, with a town meeting to be held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on July 12 at 7 p.m.

It is not yet clear how the new zoning ordinance will deal

with protecting the original section of Greenbelt, the importance of which has been stressed to the county by both the city council and city staff. While the "original" or "historical" part of Greenbelt includes a broader area than just that covered by GHI, the co-operative has a particularly strong stake in how it is classified and treated under the zoning law. As a result, GHI had been attempting to define the best way for its board and members to work with the city and with the county planning office on the relevant aspects of the Zoning Rewrite.

Councilmember Judith Davis gave a report on the focus group she had recently attended where Module 2 was introduced. Module 2 is now open to comment. She said no additional clarity has been produced on what will replace the Residential Planned Community (RPC) zone that protects original Greenbelt. Davis described this critical gap as "a little scary" but she said the county planning department, city planning staff and Clarion, the consulting firm drafting the document, are all working together to resolve the problem.

Other items of concern in Greenbelt that were addressed at the meeting included assurance that no "up-zoning" (changing to a higher-density zone) will occur as a function of the rewrite,

See **GHI**, page 9

Council Reviews Draft Report On Economic Development

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council met until 11:30 p.m. at a July 5 worksession with Stuart Eisenberg, executive director, and Molly O'Connell, program manager, of Hyattsville Development Corporation, to review a draft report on economic development programming recommendations that they presented that evening. For the most part the study was well-received according to City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Eisenberg. Eisenberg will take councilmember comments into consideration and prepare the final report, which he estimates will take another three weeks.

Also discussed was a Business Toolkit added to the city website (greenbeltmd.gov) and reported in a separate story. (See page 7.)

The report includes an assessment of economic development needs and comparison of area

municipal economic development activities. It concludes with recommendations for economic development. Separately, Eisenberg submitted proposals for how the city might spend funds budgeted for pursuing economic development in the current fiscal year budget.

Conclusions

The preliminary report concludes that the city council needs to "define a clear, concise vision and goals for economic development and consistently promote and utilize said vision." The consultants concluded that although the council has made a start in undertaking an economic development program, "more non-budgetary and policy groundwork is necessary before the City of Greenbelt would be able to effectively deploy dedicated economic development staffing."

This recommendation could be a challenge for the council whose members have expressed divergent objectives for development within the city.

Other conclusions are that the council needs to engage with the business and development community proactively, address the city's economic development needs through programming designed to address multiple goals and empower city staff to pursue economic development outcomes.

There are also a number of additional recommendations. The first is for the city to outreach to businesses. It can do this by promoting the Business Toolkit put on the city website, creating closer relationships with existing businesses and property owners, building confidence in Greenbelt

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

Youth Panelist Ema Smith Speaks at MML Convention

by Mariana Guerrero

During the last week of June the Maryland Municipal League (MML), a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of all aspects of municipal administration, held its annual gathering in Ocean City. This year, besides the regular city government representatives from Greenbelt, a member from the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) attended the conference as an invited speaker. Sixteen-year-old Ema Smith, a life-long Greenbelt resident and member of YAC was invited to participate in a panel entitled Getting Youth Involved in Public Service. Laura Furr, program manager of the Institute for Youth, Education and Fam-



PHOTO BY MARIANA GUERRERO

Greenbelt teen Ema Smith (second from right) was an invited speaker at the Maryland Municipal League Convention.

lies moderated the panel. The other two panelists were Brandon Paulin, mayor of Indian Head, who is the youngest mayor ever elected in the state and Timothy Male, council member of Takoma Park, the first city in the U.S. to set the minimum voting age for municipal elections at 16.

All panelists gave an opening statement introducing themselves and explaining why they thought it is important to involve youth in civic activities and how to promote youth participation. After opening statements, there was a question and answer session moderated by Furr, with an extensive discussion by the audience, made up of representatives from many cities in Maryland.

Smith's opening statement and answers to various questions were outstanding and were delivered with poise and determination. Members of the audience were impressed by her performance and many participants expressed interest in setting up a YAC similar to the Greenbelt model. Hav-

ing a YAC member invited as a speaker in the panel puts the City of Greenbelt in the forefront in the area of youth involvement in public service among the cities in Maryland.

The YAC was created years ago and has up to seven members no older than 18 years at the time of appointment or re-appointment. The YAC has one adult member (Patrick Gleason) and a city liaison (Alison Longworth), who provide necessary support. The committee is currently chaired by Sophie Bernheisel, with Jeremy Tuthill as vice-chair. Other current members include Julia Sharapi, Hunter Whaples, Fahmi Abadir and Honora Hammett. These young adults regularly volunteer their time and effort to make their community a better place and are all an inspiration not only to other people in our city but to other cities as well as it became evident in this year's MML meeting. Once again, we have to say it: Greenbelt is Great!

What Goes On

Friday, July 15

5 to 7 p.m. Free Roller Skating, for ages 6 to 12, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

8 to 10 p.m. Family Swim Night, Aquatic & Fitness Center

Monday, July 18

8 p.m., Council Worksession, Municipal Building

Tuesday, July 19

7 p.m., Advisory Committee on Trees meeting, Public Works Facility

Saturday, July 23

9 a.m. to Noon, Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard

Letters to the Editor

From the Pantry

Thank you dear friends for your loving support of the Pantry.

We are grateful to Father Tappe of St. Hugh’s Church, Jordan and Eva Choper of Mishkan Torah Synagogue and to you, the faithful shoppers of our Greenbelt Co-op. You keep the green bin full. Not to forget Mike McAndrew, who transports all these groceries to the Pantry.

Our heartfelt thanks for your monetary donations, hygiene products and groceries.

Special thanks to Dr. Janet S. Kuhn, “J” Davis, Neil Williamson, Sharon Markowitz, Morris and Eleanor Robinson, Pamela Gregory, the Greenbelt Homemakers, the Elks Club of College Park and Edward V.J. Putens. WOW.

Thank you for opening your hearts and wallets in support of the Pantry. You are so generous.

Solange Hess
Chair, The Pantry

Thanks

Congratulations to the News Review on a wonderful Open House. Your interactive areas were a great hit and so many people wanted to see the process of putting together the paper from beginning to end. The yellow brick road was very creative and did the job of bringing people over from the Farmers Market. Thanks for doing that.

Carol Shaw
Greenbelt Community Foundation

Theatre to Show Ballet Film; Part of Explore Your Greenbelt

by Jimmika Robinson

Ballet and other dancers should come to see the screening of the movie First Position free of charge, Sunday, July 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the Old Greenbelt Theater. The movie follows six young ballet students, all from different backgrounds, as they prepare for the Youth America Grand Prix, a competition in which dance schools and companies from around the world scout for new talent. Following the movie, a question and answer session will be led by Angella Foster, artistic director of alight dance theatre.

This movie is one of the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT) 10-part Building Bridges: Creating Community series, funded by the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) that offers interactive sessions for the audience and highlights past partnerships between GCF, the Greenbelt community and other organizations in neighboring communities.

FOGT was formed in May 2015 to become a center for film culture in Prince George’s County by revitalizing the Old Greenbelt Theatre as a cultural and social hub and by maximizing the Theatre’s potential as an economic and cultural driver. The group was awarded a contract by the City of Greenbelt to operate the Old Greenbelt Theatre as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

In just over a year of operation, The FOGT has held a plethora of education, art and cinema sessions to serve the Greenbelt community and beyond, catering to families while still offering a wide variety of screenings. One of the most memorable was the sold-out screening of the documentary film Rosenwald, about

the legacy of the Julius Rosenwald Schools in Prince Georges County. The 12-year-old project directed by Aviva Kempner, is full of unexplored African American history including the 156 Rosenwald institutions built in Jim Crow Maryland, nine of which still exist today. The screening also included a Q&A session with Kempner and research historian Susan G. Pearl. In true FOGT nature, as stated by Caitlin McGrath, FOGT executive director, “We strive to fit in as many different types of films as we can and to serve the community the best that we can through educational offerings and programs.”

Throughout the rest of 2016, FOGT has a lot in store, including continued programs such as Free Monday Matinees and very interesting screening series such as Reel Politics: 2016 Election Series and the Stage on Screen series, bringing the world’s best stage performance on screen to Greenbelt. The continued support from organizations like GCF and the residents of Greenbelt has helped FOGT live its vision and mission.

Some other types of films shown at the theater range from independent films to art house and educational content. FOGT relies on the generosity of the Greenbelt community through memberships and donations to the theater to continue to bring quality programs and services to the community year-round. For movie tickets and more information about how to get involved as a member or volunteer for The Friends of Greenbelt Theatre, visit greenbelttheatre.org.

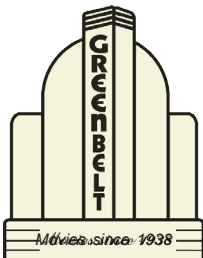
City Notes

Horticulture/Parks crew continued working at the Animal Shelter, repairing a gate and installing a 6 x 6 board under the service gate so dogs are prevented from digging underneath.

Public Works staff finalized the contract for HVAC improvements at the Community Center.

Street Maintenance/Special Details crew put down thermoplastic bike lanes on Cherrywood Lane.

CARES has partnered with the Prince George’s County Summer Food program to provide summer lunches at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Participating youth will receive a free lunch three days a week. The program began June 27, serving 28 lunches that day. The program aims to serve 30 to 40 lunches each day.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members always \$6.50!
Adults \$9, Senior/Student \$8, Members \$6.50, Kids \$6
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Members \$6.50, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES Jul 15 – 21

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (PG-13) (101 m.) (CCAP)
Fri., & Sat. 3:20, 8:00 PM
Sun. 8:00 PM
Mon. 3:20 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM
Wed. 3:20, 8:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

OUR KIND OF TRAITOR (R) (108 m.) (CCAP)
Fri. 5:35 PM
Sat. 1:00, 5:35 PM
Sun. 1:00 (OC), 5:35 PM
Mon. & Tues. 5:35 PM
Wed. 1:00, 5:35 PM
Thurs. 5:35 PM

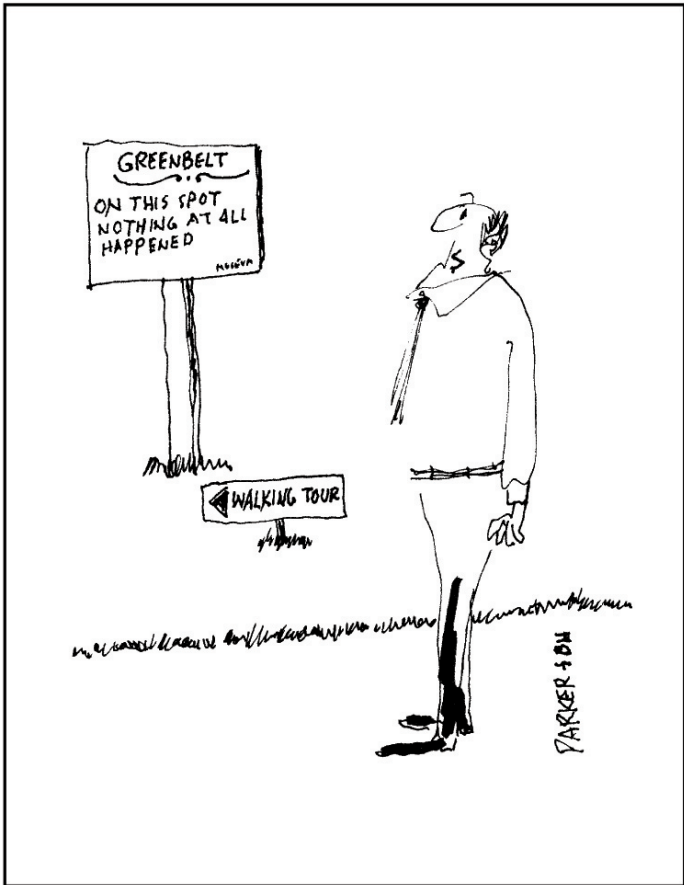
Cult Series:
JURASSIC PARK (1994) (127 m.) (CCAP)
Fri. 11:00 PM

Building Bridges Series:
FIRST POSITION (PG) (2011) (95 m.)
3:30 PM
FREE!

Generously Sponsored by the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

Summer Free Series:
RANGO (2011) (PG) (111 m.) (CCAP)
Thur. 1:00 PM
FREE!

The Old Curmudgeon



“Those were the ‘Good ol’ Days’ . . .”

Cartoon originally published on 7/31/2003.



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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads—8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 10 p.m.

On Screen

Bring It On, New Zealand

Opening at Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) on Friday, July 15 is Hunt for the Wilderpeople, wherein a chunky, rebellious nativist kid and his chill-out foster uncle are sought in the wild New Zealand bush. The aunt plays a jouncy role in what the Galway Film Fleadh (Festival) has rated this year’s best international feature.

Rated: PG-13. Running time: 101 minutes.

On for another week at OGT is Our Kind of Traitor, which goes much farther on the road than the Hunt.

- Eli Flam

Community Events

Community Potlucks Hosted by Cub Pack

On both Sunday, July 31 and Sunday, August 14 from 2 to 5 p.m., Greenbelt Cub Scout Pack 202 (grades 1 to 5) will be having community potlucks and planning sessions at the 73 Court Ridge playground/pavilion. During this time the pack will plan events for the upcoming fall 2016/spring 2017 year. This is a good time for those interested in joining Pack 202 to meet families involved and to find out in an informal setting what we do. RSVP to Jonathan Murray, jdblockhead@yahoo.com, 301-351-6325.

Model Rocket Contest At NASA Goddard

On Sunday, July 17 at the Goddard Visitor Center celebrate the Apollo 11 moon landing at the annual Apollo Contest starting at noon. Attempt to land a model rocket within a moon drawn on the ground. Trophies and model rocket kit prizes will be awarded to the top youth and adult finishers. There will be a demonstration launch of models of historic space vehicles. An awards ceremony follows the contest. This contest promotes interest in space sciences among area students and is sponsored by the Maryland Space Business Roundtable. The contest is free. On-site registration is required on contest day. Bring a rocket and motors, or purchase them at the Goddard Gift Shop. For more contest details download the contest flyer at narhams.org/GoddardContest-Flyer2016.pdf or call the Goddard Visitor Center at 301-286-8981 Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. NASA Goddard Visitor Center is located on ICESat Road, Greenbelt.

Free Lymphedema Support Group

On Thursday, July 21 from noon to 1:30 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free education and support meeting for those combating lymphedema. The meeting will take place on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-324-4968.

Green Ridge House Presents Play

Actors from Greenridge House will present the play, Walking A Blind Dog, on Sunday, July 17 at 2 p.m. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. The event is expected to last 90 minutes. Attendees should call 301-395-0751 to be let in the front door.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext 4215. All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of July 18 are as follows: Monday, July 18: Apple juice, Swedish meatballs, whole grain penne pasta, hot spiced fruit, broccoli, wheat bread. Tuesday, July 19: Cranberry juice, apple glazed pork, mashed spiced yams, green beans, oatmeal bread, pineapple tidbits. Wednesday, July 20: Grape juice, baked potato with chicken and broccoli, mixed green salad with 1000 Island dressing, fresh fruit. Thursday, July 21: Orange juice, bourbon chicken, O'Brien potatoes, mustard greens, wheat bread, diced peaches. Friday, July 22: Pineapple juice, stuffed salmon with dill sauce, lima beans, garden vegetables, cornbread, fresh fruit.

Kids Open Mic At New Deal

This Sunday, July 17, musicians and singers, all performers 17 years old and younger, are welcome to perform at the New Deal Café, a low-key, friendly place for children and families to gather and make music. The event is held on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. No reservations are required. Bring your friends, fans and family members.

GAIL to Give Away Free Produce

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program will be distributing free produce on Thursday, July 28 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Green Ridge House, 22 Ridge Road. Please do not park in the lot. Volunteers will be on hand to help load your car. Please bring sturdy bags, rolling carts or luggage with wheels to transport the produce. It will be heavy. Families are encouraged to participate. The next produce distribution date will be Thursday, August 25 at the same time and location.

Language Learning For Library Patrons

Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) patrons can achieve language learning goals at the library with 24/7, free access to Rosetta Stone Library Solution from EBSCO Information Services, effective July 1. For over 20 years, Rosetta Stone's interactive approach to learning a language has been used by millions of learners around the world and now is available with a PGCMLS library card. Whether looking to learn a new language, to improve English language skills or to brush up on a language for business or vacation travel, give it a try. Learn more about what the library has to offer at pgcmls.info.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Utopia Film Festival, Partners Reel and Meal

The July Reel and Meal will be in partnership with the Utopia Film Festival and features the winner of the 2012 Utopia Film Festival Visions Award, Opening Our Eyes: The Power of One by Gail Mooney on Monday, July 18 at the New Deal Café, located at 113 Centerway. An optional vegan buffet begins at 6:30 p.m. There is a fee. The free film screening starts at 7 p.m. What makes us want to help others in need? Why are our spirits so fulfilled by such actions? To answer these questions, this film will feature nine ordinary people on six continents doing extraordinary things to make a positive difference in the lives of others and themselves. Facilitating discussion following the film will be Dr. Ronda Ansted who advises people on how their talents and skills can fit best with charity work. She will moderate and discuss issues raised in the film. Harvey Hauptman is a "king lion" in the Lions club and will discuss their history and work, an organization started by one person. Beth Leamond will talk a bit about the Peace Corps and also about an American woman she knows who is living in Nicaragua after starting a worker co-op to help rural poor people earn a living there. One of the qualities of a utopia has to be a society where people care for and are cared about by each other. A world built on love. The Utopia Film Festival tries to promote this better type of world; this film is a gem for that reason. Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. The series has three organizing groups: Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and the Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition. For more information on this month's program, contact Frank Gervasi at 301-474-7680 or Susan Barnett at 301-474-7465 or visit the New Deal Café's e-calendar at newdealcafe.com/events/reelAndMeal.

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit www.academy8theaters.com
R = ID Required
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend
** Add \$2.00 for 3-D
* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows
Most features are \$5.50 all day on Tuesdays

Week of July 15

FRIDAY – TUESDAY

Finding Dory, PG
11:15, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
Dave and Mike Need Wedding Dates, R
11, 1:40, 4:30, 7, 9:30
The Secret Life of Pets, 3D**, PG, 4:40
The Secret Life of Pets, 2D, PG
11:10, 11:40, 1:50, 4, 6:45, 9
Ghostbusters, 3D**, PG13
2:10, 9:50
Ghostbusters, 2D, PG13
11, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:20
The Purge: Election Year, R
11:40, 4:40, 9:50
Central Intelligence, PG13
2, 7:20
The Infiltrator, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
Tarzan, PG13
11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

WEDNESDAY

Finding Dory, PG
11:15, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
Dave and Mike Need Wedding Dates, R
1:40, 4:30, 7, 9:30
The Secret Life of Pets, 3D**, PG, 4:40
The Secret Life of Pets, 2D, PG
11:10, 11:40, 1:50, 4, 6:45, 9
Ghostbusters, 3D**, PG13
2:10, 9:50
Ghostbusters, 2D, PG13
11, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:20
The Purge: Election Year, R
11:40, 4:40, 9:50
Central Intelligence, PG13
2, 7:20
The Infiltrator, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
Tarzan, PG13
11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
Family Film Series: Home, PG, 10 am

THURSDAY

Ice Age: Collision Course, PG (Preshow)
5, 7:20, 9:40
Star Trek: Beyond PG13 (Preshow)
7, 9:30
Lights Out, PG13 (Preshow)
7:10, 9:40
Finding Dory, PG
11:15, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
Dave and Mike Need Wedding Dates, R
11, 1:40
The Secret Life of Pets, 3D**, PG, 4:40
The Secret Life of Pets, 2D, PG
11:10, 11:40, 1:50, 4, 6:45, 9
Ghostbusters, 3D**, PG13
2:10, 9:50
Ghostbusters, 2D, PG13
11, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:20
The Purge: Election Year, R
11:40, 4:40
Central Intelligence, PG13
2
The Infiltrator, R
11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
Tarzan, PG13
11:30, 2, 4:30

Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, July 17th & Wednesday, July 20th
Beginning at 8 PM

“The Glass House,” “TransluminatiOn,”
and “Waiting In Silence”

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Free and Open to the Public
GATe Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 19th from 7:30 – 10 PM

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77and Verizon Fios 19
To view our schedule, visit: www.greenbeltaccessstv.org
And click on “Channel”

Greenbelt Arts Center LAST CHANCE TO SEE

THE EATON WOMAN



By Anthony Ernest Gallo
Directed by Trix Whitehall
A Guest Production from The Seventh Street Playhouse
July 15 - 17
Friday and Saturday at 8:00, Sunday at 2:00
Ticket prices: \$20 General Admission,
\$16 Students/Seniors/Military, \$12 Youth (12/ under with adult)

COMING SOON

AUDITIONS – Dinner with Friends – July 18 – 19
A Few Good Men – Jul 29 – Aug 13 – Guest production by Off The Quill
Henry V – Aug 19 – Sept 7 – Guest production by The Rude Mechanicals
Dinner with Friends – Nov 4 – 20 – Directed by Bob Kleinberg

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Iftar Dinner Unites Faiths

by Karen Yoho



PHOTO BY KAREN YOH0

An Iftar dinner took place in Greenbelt Community Church Social Hall. Iftar is the traditional post-sunset meal of the Ramadan fast.

Greenbelt families gathered with leaders from the Rumi Forum to break the Ramadan fast at an Iftar dinner on June 28.

Hosted by the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ and sponsored by the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA), the dinner welcomed guests from the Catholic Community, Mishkan Torah, Baha'i Community of Greenbelt, Mowatt Methodist Church and Greenbelt Community Church. Guests learned about the traditions surrounding Ramadan, which occurred from June 6 to July 5 in this lunar year.

Jim Fischer of Greenbelt Baha'i Community kicked off the evening, as the attendees waited for sunset before breaking the fast. Fischer shared the valuable connections that GILA brings to Greenbelt. GILA was founded as the Greenbelt Clergy Association 40 years ago. Church leaders meet each month to learn from one another and share solutions to community needs.

"Ramadan is a time for forgiveness, reflection, refocusing, giving to others, reconciliation and especially communication,"

shared Mehmet Saracoglu, program director at the Rumi Forum. "When we break the Ramadan fast, it makes it more meaningful to have friends with us." Guests asked several questions about ways in which Muslims worship throughout the year and at special holy days. A time of silence was observed for those affected by the terrorist attack at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport that occurred earlier in the day.

Sunset occurred at 8:47 p.m. and following prayers, those present feasted on Turkish cuisine, including traditional dishes, salads, flat breads, dates and other sweets.

Founded in 1999, the Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue and Intercultural Understanding seeks to foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The Forum takes its name from the 13th century Sufi scholar, philosopher and poet Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi, whose messages of peace embraced all humanity. Rumi Forum activities include speaker series, conferences, panel discussions, partnered projects, Rumi fellowships and publications, international study tours, an essay competition, Rumi Peace and Dialogue Awards and cultural events.



Greenbelt Park Events

Saturday, July 16: Who's That Fox. Join a park ranger to learn about the characteristics, habits and life of the red foxes that live in Greenbelt Park. The presentation is appropriate for ages 6 to 8. Meet at the Ranger Station classroom at 10 a.m.

A Train Ran Through It. Meet at the Ranger Station at 2 p.m. to learn about the trolley that bisected the southwest corner of what is now Greenbelt Park. The Washington, Sap Spring and Gretta Railroad Company (later renamed the Washington Interurban Railway Company) was first chartered in 1908, and streetcars carried passengers through the future Greenbelt Park until 1933.

Sunday, July 17: Mission 66: The Birth of the Greenbelt Campground. Go back in time to 1966 and celebrate the 50th birthday of the National Park Service (NPS) and the first year of the Greenbelt Park campground. Campers, guests and the public are welcome to join at the Campfire Circle for a traditional NPS campfire program at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 19: Junior Ranger Tuesdays, Azalea Trail Walk. Join a park ranger for a children's mile-long trail walk to explore the urban oasis of Greenbelt Park. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, July 20: Campfire Program: The History of Paper and Recycling. Learn about the history of paper that dates back almost 2,000 years. Meet at the breezeway of the Ranger Station at 7:30 p.m.

Obituaries

Sandra L. Kopta

Sandra L. Kopta, age 71, of Greenbelt, died peacefully in her home on July 4, 2016, after a long struggle with cancer. She had lived in the 9 Court of Ridge Road.

Ms. Kopta, daughter of Darrell and Clara (Johansen) Burger, was born on July 31, 1944 in Harlan, Iowa. Her varied career included 20 years of service at the Internal Revenue Service, from which she retired in 2009. After two years, she decided that retirement did not suit her, so she began a new career with a Lockheed Martin team supporting her former office at the IRS, where she worked until her death.

She married Edward Martin Kopta on July 20, 1968. They had three daughters. Their marriage ended in divorce.

Ms. Kopta discovered a passion for travel while on assignment with the IRS in Puerto Rico and spent the second half of her life traveling throughout North and South America and Europe.

She is survived by her daughters Aimee Kopta, of San Juan, Puerto Rico; Elizabeth Kopta and her husband Henry Schaefer of Frederick; and Kerry DeSomma and her husband Vincent of Bethesda; her stepmother Marcia Burger of Cassville, Mo.; her brother Tom Burger of Los Angeles, Calif.; her sisters Patrica Nordby of Salida, Colo., and Judy Will, of Malvern, Iowa;

many nieces and nephews and four grandchildren: Henry Schaefer, Alessandra DeSomma, Victoria DeSomma and Vincent DeSomma. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Ron Burger.

A memorial service was held at St. Pius X in Bowie on July 9, 2016. The family requests that contributions in her name be made to the Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University (hopkinsmedicine.org/kimmel_cancer_center/our_center/charitable_giving).



Condolences to the family and friends of Sandra L. Kopta who died on July 4, 2016.

Congratulations to William Powell, whose Greenbelt Arts Center production Any Given Monday placed First Runner Up at the Ruby Griffith Awards. The competition, sponsored by The British Players, is designed to elevate the quality of amateur theater in the Washington, D.C., area and reward excellence and outstanding achievement.

Congratulations also to Reuben Cohen, who was named to the 2016 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota.

Please share your accomplishments, milestones, and news for the next Our Neighbors column. Send complete details on your news to kyoho@comcast.net.

- Karen Yoho

Barbara Simon Funeral Service

A funeral service for Barbara Simon will be held on Saturday, July 16, at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 4512 College Avenue in College Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mrs. Simon's name may be made to So Others Might Eat (some.org), FONDCA (newdealcafe.com/fondca) or the Greenbelt Association of the Visual Arts (GAVA) c/o GAVA, 121 Lastner Lane, Greenbelt.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
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Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
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www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



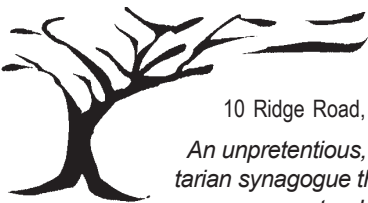
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July 17 10 a.m.
"Johrei"

Neil Davidson, Worship Leader, and Noel Monardes, Worship Associate

Johrei is a spiritual healing technique from the Japanese tradition involving channeling light and energy to others. It also involves facing challenges as opportunities for purification, and engaging in practices to foster beauty in the environment. Find out more during the service and join practitioners, if you wish, for individual Johrei sessions during the Enrichment Hour.



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 25th

to

Friday, July 29th

6:00 pm
to
8:30 pm



GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301)474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

5:00pm-7:00pm, Ages: 6-12 years
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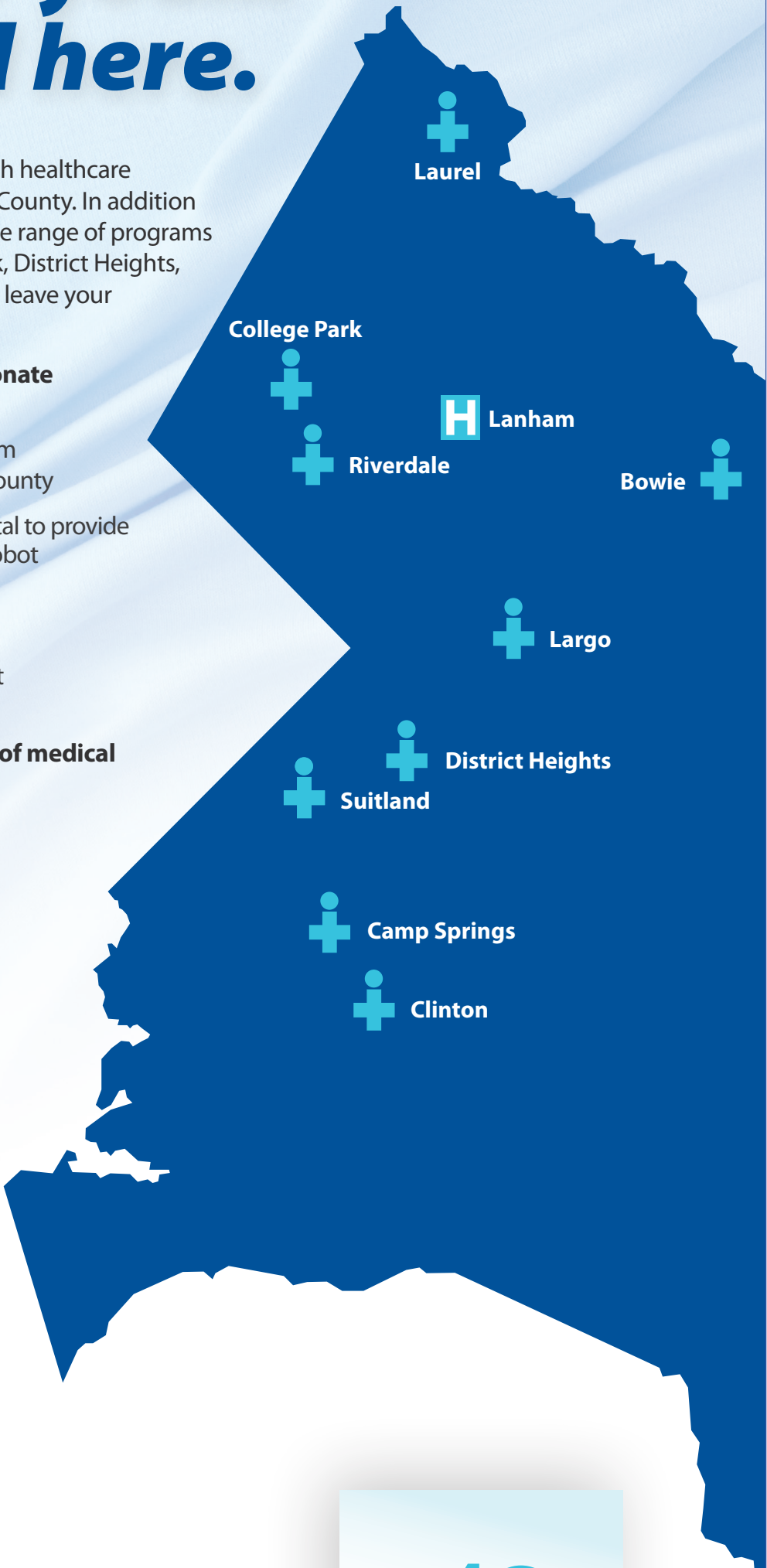
As a healthcare leader, our experienced and compassionate professionals provide exceptional care:

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- + Cardiology Services and Outpatient Vascular Studies
- + Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine
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- + Emergency Department (24/7)
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- + Metropolitan Medical Specialists (primary care)
- + Sleep Center
- + Vascular Health Program

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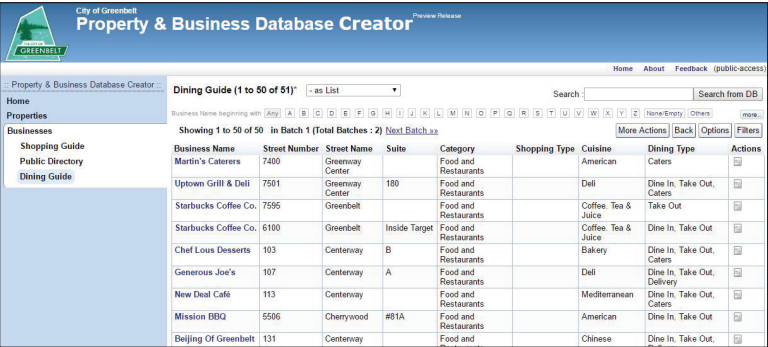
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DCHweb.org

New City Directory Aids Businesses and Residents

by James Giese



Screenshot of Greenbelt Dining Guide online business tool, partial search results

Greenbelters may be surprised to learn that there are 51 dining venues, 147 stores and a total of 868 businesses in the city. A comprehensive listing of these businesses is now available on the City of Greenbelt website, greenbeltnmd.gov. The information can be found on a new tab, Business, in the home page directory. The listing is only one part of the Business section at which is posted a variety of information useful to city businesses and prospective businesses, but also of interest and useful to residents and others.

Of particular interest to new residents and many others is the Welcome to Greenbelt tab under Business, which is a comprehensive electronic brochure about the city, its activities, schools, organizations, churches, etc. This tab is so useful and informative that it deserves to be listed by itself on the city's home page as well as printed for selected distribution.

The Business Toolkit was prepared by the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation under contract to the city. Stuart Eisenberg, executive director of the firm, made a presentation to the Greenbelt City Council on the new website addition at a July 5 worksession that was warmly received by the council. The Toolkit is one result of the contractor's work, which also includes preparation of a report containing recommendations on actions the city should undertake to spur economic development within the city.

Other tabs in the Business Toolkit include a Guide to Starting a Business in Greenbelt, a Commercial Code Brochure to provide information on city, county and other agency regulations, an interactive city map locating and providing information about the city's commercial centers, a second interactive map identifying city points of interest and a Dining and Shopping Guide which, unlike the business listing, groups food service places together by type of cuisine and service offered and stores by type.

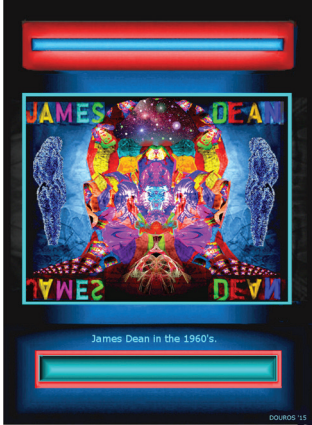
The final section is the Proper-

ty Database. This is a full listing of all commercial property and some residential with location and contact information as well as separate listings of properties available for lease, purchase or that have vacancies. Properties are also listed separately for each commercial area location within the city. This guide will be particularly useful to entrepreneurs seeking to locate within the city.

Art Show, Reception At New Deal Café

A new art exhibit, For the Inspired and the Aberrant, the Art of Perry Douros, is on view at the New Deal Café. The artist reception is Sunday, July 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. Douros lived for decades in Los Angeles and now resides in Greenbelt. He has written nine novels including The Beautiful, Winged Madness, which follows the struggles of artists, illusion and reality, love and madness, and death and transcendence.

For decades Douros was a painter, but in recent years he has created hundreds of digital artworks. He generally begins with either a concept, like a human condition, or an intriguing image and then experiments digitally until a new, unique image emerges that often transcends the original intent and may become the inspiration for a series. A collection of these images plus a few earlier works is presented in his latest art show. Contact Douros at ppdouros@gmail.com or visit his website at ppdouros.com.



James Dean in the 1960's by Perry Douros

OPEN HOUSE continued from page 1

as a struggle went on behind the scenes to change the paper's tone and persona. There are hundreds of such stories.

Visitors were equally impressed at how the paper uses modern software like InDesign to create a fully electronic product to deliver to the printer and maintains an evolving electronic presence.

The 1920's typewriters were a big hit. Kids and adults were enchanted by them – for different reasons. The adults reminisced about their typing teachers of yesteryear, lamenting that Miss X from their high school typing class would be appalled at all their mistakes. Two young ladies in their teens spent about 45 minutes typing merrily away, carriages returning briskly to the sound of a bell, unaware perhaps that a couple of generations ago a roomful of young women slightly older than themselves would have comprised the corporate typing pool. Little kids loved the clickety-clack and ding sounds and all the mechanisms that let the paper roll and the carriage slide.

Some visitors (and some of the members) were engrossed selecting photos and stories to design their personal Greenbelt News Review front pages. Others came up with imaginative captions for old and new cartoons drawn by current cartoonist Peter Reppert and the late iconic Izzy Parker. Some of these creative captions will be featured in future issues of the paper.

The overall impression was one of camaraderie. It was like a successful party – with a pleasing buzz of conversation and laughter. Many visitors were charmed to see their birthday week paper – and if there were extra copies, the fortunate individual carried away an original issue.

What did the paper hope for and what did it get? The paper hoped that at least somebody would show up and that perhaps a few Greenbelters would get a better picture of what it takes to put out a 12- or 16-page paper every week. It hoped to inspire individuals to volunteer their time and talent and to show how the paper moves with the times and the technology – blending old and new to create a workplace friendly to people of all ages and skill levels, yet in tune with the times.

The high attendance and palpable sense of warmth, energy and support exceeded the News Review's expectations. The staff that attended left feeling joyful and optimistic, realizing that their weekly investment really is valued by the community and that the bread they cast so generously upon the waters comes back multifold. A plus was that members who come at different times during the week got to mingle with



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Claudette Green-Thompson, of Greenbelt, tries out the old typewriters at the Open House while Susan Harris (background) inspects the 1923 Underwood 5. Green-Thompson said she was fascinated by the "relics".

those whom they'd not previously met in person. The community gained new insight into the newspaper and the weekly roller-coaster ride of publishing it. It was a high-five occasion for everybody.

Thanks to the Greenbelt Community Foundation and its sponsors Paradyme Management and Beltway Plaza for underwriting the event as part of its Explore Your Greenbelt campaign.

Heartfelt thanks especially to Sylvia Lewis and JoEllen Sarff for all their many hours of work and care in preparing for the event – their hard work and attention to detail paid off in a multitude of ways. Thanks and kudos to all the other News Review staff who were there to explain their roles to visitors and assist with activities: Jill Connor, Deanna Dawson, Bernie Gormally, Amy Hansen, Rebecca Holober, Suzette Joyner, Tom Jones, Sue Krofchik, Cathie Meetre, Elaine Nakash, Patricia Novinsky,

Gail Phillips, Peter Reppert, Pat Scully, Lola Skolnik, Alan Turnbull, Mary Lou Williamson and Karen Yoho. Thanks to community members who helped restore the typewriters: Jerry Bonnell, Ray and Lisa Zammuto, Steve Skolnik and Margaret and Tom Morris. Hats off to Rick Meetre who designed and built the signpost based solely on the vague spousal direction of 'Make it look like Winnie-the-Pooh' and to the Farmers Market for allowing the signpost. Thanks to businesses in Roosevelt Center and around town for making brochures available to their customers.

Should the paper do the open house annually? Send editor@greenbeltnewsreview your comments and suggestions.



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EXPLORE YOUR GREENBELT

GREENBELT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FREE MOVIE

Old Greenbelt Theatre

First Position

Sunday July 17, 3:30 PM

The movie follows six dancers from around the world as they compete in the Young American Grand Prix international ballet competition for dancers from ages 9 to 19.

Following the movie, dancers will have a chance for Q&A with Angella Foster, artistic director for **alight dance theater**.

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A Review

Reeling in America: Amreeka

by Jim Link

The Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince George’s County (essentially Donna Hoffmeister, Lucy Duff, Shirley Middleton, Alexander Barnes and Bill Orleans) organized yet another stimulating Reel & Meal film and discussion at the New Deal Café on June 20.

Amreeka is a bittersweet film depicting the ambiguous adventures of a Palestinian family that emigrates to America after winning a lottery ticket – their passport out of the daily humiliating treatment (searches, delays) inflicted on them by Israeli soldiers at a Bethlehem checkpoint, and presumably into a warm welcoming embrace of the immigrant-friendly land of the free, the brave, the racially unprejudiced. Strangers in a strange land, their sojourn turns ominous, but is laced with humor.

The movie begins in wonder as the winners, a mother and teenage son, experience the liminal magic of border crossing into a quasi-promised land to live with their Palestinian relatives, earlier emigrants, in Illinois.

But wonder quickly wears thin. The hyper-educated, multilingual mother, who was a bank administrator in Palestine, has green card problems because she is a citizen of no country; immigrants from “nowhere” don’t get plum jobs.

Mother pretends to have been hired by a bank but actually flips burgers at a White Castle next door to her fake employer. When her ruse is discovered, her disappointed niece comments: “At least you could have chosen Wendy’s.”

Friction in the crowded host home intensifies: the niece wants to date American boys; the son gets into fights at school because he is assumed to be sympathetic to terrorists, and mother’s obesity and lowly status erode her self-esteem.

“Look how big your ass has gotten! Well, everyone in America is fat, so maybe you’ll fit in,” host niece greets her aunt on arrival.

There’s a hilarious, touching, pastoral scene where the niece and her male schoolmates introduce her younger cousin to the joys of smoking pot. At night in a car in a deserted field they pass a joint around, then under the stars an African-American boy teaches the younger boy how to do the “perp walk,” the stylish lope of prison inmates, with his pants hanging nearly below his derriere. “Now you’re American,” they announce proudly.

A Polish-Jewish high school counselor defends the younger boy against school bullies and acts as an advocate for him when the police arrest him. Grateful mother and family invite him to an Independence Day cook-out. “Arabic food is the best in the world,” mother assures him. “Then why are we eating cheeseburgers?” asks the brother-in-law. The film ends with this rather somber celebration of a multicultural meal.

Perhaps the philosophical point of Amreeka occurs when morale is at a low ebb and the mother plaintively asks a crucial question: “If we don’t belong here, where do we belong?”

Two guest speakers then fielded questions and guided discussion spurred by Amreeka. Linda Rabben is a University of Maryland Associate Research Professor and author of Give Refuge to the Stranger. Bshara Nassar is a Palestinian Christian Arab, who co-founded the Nakba Museum in Washington, D.C.

Rabben began by asking the 60 or so attendees to sign a letter informing Governor Larry Hogan that “he does not speak for us,” when he rejects Syrian refugees from entering Maryland. “Of the 31 governors who reject Syrian refugees, 30 are Republican but it’s a federal decision to make, not a local one. Pressure should be kept on Hogan.” Rabben then asked the audience what some salient themes of the film were. Many hands popped up: belonging, identity, oppression, family, dignity, resilience and culture clash were offered and discussed.

Rabben talked of research for her forthcoming book about various countries’ policies of sanctuary and asylum for refugees. “The USA’s asylum policy, the French asylum policy are all on record. Israel has one of the lowest rates of acceptance of refugees.” Their refugees “are detained in what is basically a concentration camp. Israel’s asylum policy is horrifically shameful,” Rabben said. She urged the audience to “inform yourselves and be ready to act politically.”

Nassar spoke in a low-key, conciliatory but candid way about the mistreatment of Palestinians

See AMREEKA, page 11

COUNCIL continued from page 1

as a place to work and establishing new businesses and employees. To this end, consultants have recommended the city use current budget funds to employ two qualified interns to make contacts with local businesses to promote the Business Toolkit and launch small business support programming, such as seminars, at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

A second recommendation is for development facilitation. For this the city needs to build new and better relationships with the development community, address the long-term city needs and interests proactively and leverage private investment to achieve municipal goals. The consultants note a Greener Greenbelt Initiative study done in 2008 suggested using space around Roosevelt Center to provide added development in order to improve the viability of this economically marginal shopping district. They suggested that, by allocating \$25,000 for the assistance of a consultant, city staff, council and advisory boards could identify suitable areas for infill development and produce a request for private developers to propose specific marketable construction for the proposed area.

A third recommendation advocates establishing public-private relationships in which both the public and the property owner would invest in development in order to mutually benefit therefrom. This was particularly suggested for Beltway Plaza, which has become an outdated shopping mall, whose owners have suggested conversion to a town center that combines both retail business and residences.

The variety of economic development activities varies among the communities and Greenbelt already undertakes many of those listed. However, the report describes Greenbelt as “permit/license heavy with no business-focused programming, financial incentives or outreach.”

The report takes note of incentives being offered elsewhere to encourage economic development. One program is a commercial façade improvement grant program. Another is to provide tax incentives.

Vacancies

While the consultants have taken note of the more than 30 percent vacancy rate in Greenbelt office spaces, a number that is growing, the draft report makes no recommendations dealing with this problem. Commercial office space generates a significant portion of city tax revenue, but to do so, the offices must be occupied. City expectations for significant increases in property assessments due to an improved residential real estate market were set back due to reductions in commercial property values.

To a great extent, office rentals are dependent on area-wide demand which can be greatly impacted by the activity of the federal government. News reports have also noted a recent trend of businesses to relocate from the suburbs to the center city.

Family Swim Night

There will be a Family Swim Night at the Aquatic & Fitness Center on Friday, July 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. There is a fee for all families, including pass holders. Bring your pool toys and the whole family for an evening of fun!

Each family must have at least one adult. There is a limit of three non-family members per group. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the indoor pool.

Play Pokémon Go: There are Pikachu in Greenbelt

by Nidorina Naticate

If a will o’the wisp person between about 8 and 28 stalks past you down at the lake peninsula, don’t be surprised or afraid. Especially if they stop and spin around holding their cell phones out to scan the foliage and scenery around them. They aren’t demented or lost. They are merely playing a wildly popular game that has folks with cell phones dodging all over the place trying to acquire the virtual Pokémon characters that are located everywhere. And it isn’t just Greenbelt. The critters are all over the world.

Greenbelt has a fine crop of Pokémon – and many of them are located on the peninsula on the lake. Every city bench has one. Hearsay evidence places some outside the library and in Roosevelt Center too.

Designed to counter criticism that kids are spending so many hours playing with cell phones and tablets that they aren’t getting exercise, acquiring the Pokémon characters is a sufficiently enticing motivation to get the sedentary out of their chairs and into the great outdoors.

Pokémon Go is a free-to-play game in which individuals with cell phones use the phone’s on-board GPS and clock to position




The recent release of Pokémon Go is drawing a lot of people (and their cellphones) outdoors, including Greenbelter Caitlin Cummings (in the red dress), seen here with other people hunting the elusive little virtual critters on the peninsula at Greenbelt Lake this past weekend.

themselves near the site of a virtual creature. When they look the right way, the Pokémon will appear on their phone and they can then capture, battle or train it. Only when they turn the cell phone towards the exact position of the virtual creature does it manifest itself on the screen of their phone. An observer nearby sees nothing because – there is nothing. The player captures the Pokémon not through battle but by throwing a Poke ball at it at exactly the right speed and in the right direction (and the ball isn’t real either – in case you were wondering).

Quite why this has gotten the youth of the nation off its rear end and into the park is a matter for speculation. But observations of the genus Pokémon Venator have increased remarkably over the last week. You don’t have to be under 30 – but it probably helps.

So don’t call the police or hide. Congratulate the seeker on being out on the quest. Ask how many Pokémon the player has acquired. Ask their names (which are fanciful). Try it yourself. All you need is an Android smart phone or an iphone. See you at the lake.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, July 21, 2016

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1. GHI Special Open Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m.


- Vote to Conduct the Executive Session (closed) meeting.

2. GHI Executive Session Meeting (closed)

- Member Financial Delinquency Matters
- Consider the Terms and Conditions of Three Contracts
- Member Complaint Issues

3. GHI Regular Open Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

- Approval of Addendum for Trust Ownership
- Architectural Review Committee’s Recommendation re: Proposal to Install a Solar Photovoltaic Electric System at 42-D Ridge Road
- Architectural Review Committee’s Recommendation re: Proposal to Install a Solar Photovoltaic Electric System at 44-Q Ridge Road
- Review Draft Technology Survey Form Submitted by the Communications committee
- Proposal to Establish a Deposit Account with the National Cooperative Bank
- Review Revisions to GHI’s Committee Manual



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members

For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop

GHI continued from page 1

nor will developers or property owners be able to amend existing zones as part of the rewrite process. Later in the meeting, Councilmember Rodney Roberts said that during the city council’s worksession with the owner of the Lakeside North property, it had sounded as though he did not think he would have to seek a zoning change later. County Councilmember Todd Turner assured Roberts there would be no change in the zoning and use of the property as a result of the rewrite. The process for requesting a change in zoning, on the other hand, would be dealt with in Module 3 (Administration).

Davis highlighted other topics of general interest: neighborhood compatibility standards designed to protect the character of adjacent neighborhoods; options for developers to increase density with adequate green building “points”; a need for greater definition on whether redevelopment is treated as new development in older neighborhoods; and a lack of incentives for building affordable housing. She also noted that the city planning staff are looking into another matter that could affect original Greenbelt, which is the classification of all Greenbelt lands as being inside the Capital Beltway, which in some instances makes different standards applicable.

Back to GHI

Returning to the question of what will replace the RPC zone to protect original Greenbelt, Turner said the rewrite would have to be approved by county council and that if this question was not satisfactorily resolved prior to that, the council could take it up. GHI Board Member Chuck Hess expressed concern that if the city and GHI took a wait-and-see approach, the opportunity for change might be lost.

GHI Board Member Aaron Marcavitch said it appeared that Module 2 was not highly relevant to GHI’s major concerns. He said he first wanted to determine how GHI should interface with city and county staff in order to get GHI’s concerns addressed. GHI is currently in the RT (Residential Townhouse) zone with an RPC overlay. The RT zone will become part of the MFR12 (Multi-family Residential 12) zone. Marcavitch said the biggest concern was not with the underlying zone but rather with the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay that was being discussed as the solution. At this point there are no rules for the overlay.

It had been suggested by the city that GHI should work directly with the county planning office and that Marcavitch wanted to determine if that was the approach to be taken or whether GHI should instead be working with city staff. He said he did not want to step on any toes but the county bills had caught GHI by surprise and they need to know the appropriate way to look out for their own interests. He met with Chad Williams, the county planning staff coordinator for the rewrite, who indicated that the county wants to use GHI as the test case or guinea pig for the development of the overlay criteria. After some discussion, Mayor Emmett Jordan gave direction to the city manager that GHI representatives should work with city staff.

Pepco Tree Work

The city had provided a map

of proposed Pepco tree work, also known as “vegetation management,” for this year. The mayor announced that almost all the double poles that were a topic of discussion for several years had been removed. When Pepco put up new, higher utility poles and moved its own lines, it did not notify Verizon and Comcast in advance, with the result that it took quite some time, as well as a good deal of bird-dogging by city staff, for those companies to schedule the work and move their lines and equipment.

Jordan went on to say that despite the work the city, GHI and neighborhood homeowner associations had gone through last year to pool information to get a comprehensive overview of work to be done, Pepco had completed only a small portion of its proposed 2015 work. City Manager Michael McLaughlin added that the work not done was not simply on hold but apparently would not be undertaken until they circled back to the same area in another three or four years.

GHI General Manager Eldon Ralph responded that his office had been attempting to reach Pepco since January regarding the status of the work on GHI property. Only 42 of the 104 trees approved to be removed at GHI were in fact taken down. He has been unable to get any accounting from Pepco on this matter. The irony was duly noted that the trees identified by Pepco but not removed in 2015 were ones that had been vetted by the city and GHI, with concurrence that they should be taken down.

In April, the city council approved a new schedule of work for 2016. Only 35 trees are scheduled for removal this year, most of them street trees on city property or rights-of-way in Franklin Park.

Playground Update

The shredded rubber surfacing on the GHI playground at 1 Court Southway will be removed shortly and be replaced with engineered wood fiber (EWF). The city has funds to begin removing the shredded rubber on the remaining eight privately owned playgrounds covered by the city playground agreement. The city has solicited opinion from the owners on the preferred surfacing. Two of the playgrounds, at 7 Court Southway and 2 Court Research Road, belong to GHI.

GHI Board President Steve Skolnik said he and Ralph were both in agreement with the recommendation of the city’s Park and Recreation Advisory Board that different surfaces were appropriate to different playgrounds and that there should be a mix, depending, in particular, on sun exposure. For the upcoming playground everyone agreed that EWF was most appropriate, although the more expensive but longer lasting poured-in-place (PIP) surface might be preferable otherwise.

The down side to EWF is that it requires more maintenance, including frequent raking and turning. Davis reminded everyone that a staff position had been added to the Public Works Department in order to improve that aspect of playground maintenance, but she encouraged GHI and residents to let the city know if there were problems.

Status of HIP

Skolnik and Ralph briefly up-

dated council on the status of the five-year Homes Improvement Program (HIP), noting that renovation work had actively begun on the 326 houses scheduled for work during 2016. The remediation work in crawl spaces and the subsequent discovery of asbestos that was hidden rather than removed in masonry houses by a now defunct contractor have expanded the task list for the program, which is nonetheless proceeding well.

GHI Trends

Asked how occupancy and sales were going at GHI, Skolnik said “Business is not booming but it’s okay.” For the 1,600 units, only 10 involve approved rentals. About 15 are vacant, primarily because of estate settlements. Fifty-eight are for sale, which is an average number. So far this year there are 33 new members, with eight new contracts pending, which is also on track as typical.

Hoarding Task Force

For some time, the city and GHI have discussed forming a partnership to address problems with hoarding, especially in GHI homes. The city manager reported the submission of a proposal for a small grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation to support a hoarding task force demonstration project. In general, the task force would represent a range of expertise on working with hoarding behavior and would develop resources to assist residents, caretakers and city and GHI staff.

Jordan asked how long it would take to begin implementation of the project if the grant is received. McLaughlin said he believed the city’s social services programs, Greenbelt CARES and Greenbelt Assistance in Living were “ready to go.” He said a good deal of preliminary work had been done in the process of developing the proposal.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

DWI/DUI

July 3, 3:39 a.m., Greenbelt Road near Lakecrest Drive. A 28-year-old resident was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-and traffic-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. She was released on citations pending trial.

Theft

June 29, 9 a.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. A parcel package was removed from the front stoop of a residence.

June 29, 7:25 p.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. A man purchased a cell phone at AT&T Wireless Store but came back a short time later and said he wanted to return it. After getting his money back he left the store. The clerk then realized that the box he returned had no phone in it. The man is described as being black, 6’3” tall with a thin build and long dreadlocks, wearing a red baseball cap with white writing, a grey T-shirt and blue jean shorts.

July 3, 12:58 p.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. Theft. An unattended wallet was taken from Ross Dress for Less.

July 4, 7:35 a.m., 100 block Centerway. A 48-year-old resident was arrested and charged with trespass after he was found on the grounds of Greenbelt Step Club after having been banned from the establishment by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

Burglary

July 6, 6:12 a.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A 27-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary and disorderly intoxication

when officers responded to a report of breaking and entering. A woman reported that she was in her bedroom when a man opened the bedroom door and then fled after seeing her. This person was located nearby, positively identified by the woman and was transported to the Department of Correction for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Vandalism

July 3, 1:50 a.m., 6200 block Greenbelt Road. A window in the Wendy’s drive-through area was broken out.

July 7, Braden Field. Another incident of vandalism resulting in a broken chair, overturned trash cans and frayed nets.

Vehicle Crime

A black 4-door 2006 Mercedes E300 with Md. tags ICG3227 was stolen from the 6500 block Lake Park Drive on July 5.

Four thefts from vehicles were reported. Two occurred after windows were broken to gain access, one in the 7800 block Mandan Road (in-dash stereo system) and the other in 20 Court Southway (two purses). In the 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive a digital media player and Google wallet card were taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle. The door of a work vehicle in the 7900 block Mandan Road was pried open and a cable meter removed.

Three acts of vandalism were reported. A front passenger window was broken out in the 7800 block Mandan Road. Three tires on one vehicle were slashed in the 400 block Ridge Road and four tires on another vehicle were flattened in the 6100 block Breezewood Court.

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Rising Stars Talent Show Seeks Young Performers

by Margaret Stricklett

The Greenbelt Rising Stars Talent Show will take place on the Outdoor Stage on Sunday, September 4 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. as part of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. This program is an opportunity for performers aged 17 years or younger to share their creativity, their love, their art and maybe what they have learned over the summer by singing, playing an instrument, dancing, reading a poem, performing a musical scene, juggling and more. Kids and teens may perform alone or join with friends to form a group act. Youth groups and choirs are welcome. Having fun and letting out the creative spirit is what Rising Stars is all about.

Talent is whatever can be presented to an audience that informs and connects the young person on the stage to the audience. This can be a musical performance, like singing or playing an instrument alone or with a

band. Kids and teens can also connect to their talent and others by reading poems, giving a speech on something of personal significance or talking about a project on which they have been working.

Rising Stars is not a competition, but a sharing event. All participating performers will receive a Rising Stars trophy as a memento of their creative efforts.

For information about how to be a part of Rising Stars, contact Margaret Stricklett at astricklett@yahoo.com or 301-474-6406. Information about Rising Stars is also available on the Greenbelt Labor Day website at greenbelt-laborday.com under the quick link to Greenbelt Rising Stars/Talent Show.

Greenbelt is such a creative, vibrant community. There is a great deal of creative talent in the children and young people who are a part of all that happens here.

AMREEKA continued from page 8

beginning with the Nakba and continuing today under the “Israeli occupation.” Nakba is Arabic for “disaster” or “catastrophe” and refers to the displacement of 700,000 Palestinian who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 war to establish Israeli independence. It is generally commemorated on May 15, the day after Israeli Independence Day.

The purpose of the Nakba Museum (see nakbarmuseumdc.org) is to “safely honor and archive the past while providing a platform for those disenfranchised in the present to share their art, paintings, poetry and stories.” Nassar asserted that “Israel projects an image of pure democracy, but they don’t want you to know the truth.” Of his own emigration to the USA he said: “I was welcomed by your people.”

Nassar has a degree in conflict resolution; he is emphatic about the necessity for ongoing dialogue and incessant peacebuilding efforts. The Nakba Museum

cherishes memory but absolutely asserts it does not foment vengeance.

During the Q & A one gentleman boldly commented: “Our foreign policy has caused the refugee crisis, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan. It’s mostly the Americans’ fault. You see your tax dollars at work in this mess.” His comment went unrefuted and undiscussed.

Visit the New Deal Café on Monday, July 18, when the next Reel & Meal will be held.

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A Review

GAC's The Eaton Woman:
An Allegory for the Times?

by Carol Griffith



PHOTO BY GRANT BAGLEY

The full cast of The Eaton Woman now playing at GAC.

Ever wonder if our nation has ever experienced anything like this year’s election situation? Well, the answer is yes: the events following the election of President Andrew Jackson were even more acrimonious, as dramatized in the current play at the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC).

The Eaton Woman, Anthony Gallo’s latest creation, tackles big issues with intelligence, a bit of religion and much talent.

Around the time of his inauguration, Jackson’s beloved wife Rachel died. Although he had a niece to assist him with social functions in the White House and as boisterous as those events could be, Jackson relied on the new wife of his friend and now his Secretary of War, Peggy Eaton. Polite Washington society was aghast as Mrs. Eaton was accused of having extramarital affairs, an illegitimate child or two, and being the cause of her first husband’s suicide, among other things. While those accusations would hardly cause a yawn today, the fallout for Jackson was immense and is the plot of the play.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the play is the character of Peggy Eaton as Gallo has

interpreted her. As the scandal about her position with Jackson rages, she says and does some – even by today’s standards – outrageous things, yet toward the end of her life moralizes about the very things of which she was accused. Was she trying to atone for her sins with her pious platitudes or warning others not to do as she had done?

Gallo is especially talented at weaving historical facts and background into a play that moves quickly and crisply. Ably directed by GAC’s own Beatrix Whitehall and impeccably acted and costumed, The Eaton Woman is a real treat.

On every level, The Eaton Woman shows us that our nation has survived other political crises and that there is hope for our future.

Gallo is director of the Seventh Street Playhouse. Among his recent productions at GAC include Eugenio, about Rome’s chief rabbi during WWII, Vandergrift!, which dealt with union organizing during the Gilded Age, and two plays about Abraham Lincoln: Lincoln and God and The Springfield Boys.

The Eaton Woman will play at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, July 15 and 16, and on Sunday, July 17 at 2 p.m. Reservations may be made through the box office at 301-441-8770 or online. The GAC is located at 123 Centerway, beneath the Co-op supermarket.

Honeybees Examined At Old Maryland Farm

Old Maryland Farm presents animal care, insect demonstrations and family-friendly education all summer long. On Thursday, July 21 from 2 to 3 p.m. learn the ABC's of honeybees. Ever wonder about the amazing honeybee? Learn about these industrious insects, how they pollinate crops, produce honey and live in a social society. There is a nominal fee for this program.

Reservations are required by calling 301-218-6770. The Old Maryland Farm is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro.

2015 Outstanding Citizen Still Feeding Greenbelt Families

by Lois Rosado



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Outstanding Citizen Solange Hess waves to the crowd during the 2015 Labor Day Festival parade.

Each year at the Opening Ceremony of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, an Outstanding Citizen award is presented to a Greenbelt resident who has provided years of exemplary volunteer service and who continues to serve as a model of what is best about Greenbelt. Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen of 2015, Solange Hess, continues to volunteer and serve the families of Greenbelt.

When asked how she was enticed to attend the Opening Ceremony, Solange laughed and stated that her two sons, one from Boise, Idaho, and the other from Olney, went to meet their friends at the festival, and she was to meet them there. Solange attends every year, so it was no surprise that she was looking for her children and could not find them as her name was being announced. When her name was called, she was surprised, overwhelmed and incredulous.

Instead of resting on her laurels, Solange continues to work at the Ladies of Charity (St. Hugh’s Pantry) feeding at least 15 families a week, which she has done since 2005; she proofreads for the Greenbelt News Review and is the hospitality chair for the Golden Age Club, a position she has held since 2000. Solange intends to continue giving and states, “There is always someone to help you out and share resources. The people of Greenbelt are very generous.”

When Solange was asked if she has experienced anything new or different since receiving this award she smiled and stated that she was featured in the alumni magazine from her nursing school in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for being the 2015 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen. Solange’s family was very happy and excited for her. It has been a good year, she said.

In closing, Solange stated that she would not retire to any place else but Greenbelt because this is such a rewarding place to live. People of all cultures and religions leave wonderful donations in the bin at the Co-op for the

Pantry, and people that she has never met send checks to help care for others. For Solange “The citizens of Greenbelt are outstanding.”

To date there have been 42 Outstanding Citizens of Greenbelt, and we expect to continue that tradition with the help of the citizens and residents of this historic city.

Award 2016

A committee of Greenbelters selects the Outstanding Citizen, as is determined from nominations and support material submitted by you, the residents of Greenbelt. Individuals nominated previously can be nominated

again. While only one person is selected each year, there is no doubt that every nominee has greatly enhanced the quality of life in Greenbelt. We encourage the nomination of youth and young adults who have gone beyond the call of duty and made a special impact on the Greenbelt community.

Your help is needed to identify the 2016 Outstanding Citizen. Submit a nomination form from this paper or elsewhere; explain why the individual deserves recognition. Attach a brief statement listing the organizations in which the individual participates and the accomplishments and length of service; describe the impact on Greenbelt and its residents, and include the personal qualities that make this person special.

Nomination forms and support letters are due on Monday, August 1. The person submitting the nomination form must sign it and provide contact information.

Send the form and support letters to: Bob Zugby, Chair, Outstanding Committee, 94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, 20770.

See page 5 for the Nomination Form.



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